



107th SESSION OF THE OPCW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
AGENDA SUBITEM 6(i): STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE XI
STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CANADA

Thank you, Chair.

In the discussion of the peaceful uses of chemistry there have been several interventions which would tell us that export controls prevent international trade and block the full exchange of science and technology and thus keep States Parties from benefiting from developments in chemistry.

Let's be clear: Canada's export controls are not meant to unnecessarily hinder international trade.

Canada as part of our obligations and commitments under non-proliferation treaties and UN Security Council resolutions implements export controls. We participate in several multilateral export control regimes using a national export licensing system – a bit like the one our Austrian colleague talked about.

Export controls provide the confidence, trust and assurance necessary to make cooperation involving potentially sensitive dual-use items possible.

Working with partners in various configurations, we encourage sharing of best practices – helping countries examine proliferation risks before approving exports.

We build trust among trading partners and foster private sector confidence, investment, and economic growth. This process helps exporters reduce the chances of diversion of their legitimate exports to unintended proliferation ends.

These mechanisms are aimed at addressing the export of specific items that could contribute to proliferation activities.

The multilateral export control regimes have membership which is broad and cross-regional, with members on every continent, of all sizes and with all forms of government. Several members and observers of the Executive Council are members of the Australia Group; some which are not in the Australia Group participate in other multilateral export control regimes which work to counter transfers of other dual-use technologies and material which increase proliferation risk, including the means of their delivery.

These regimes are transparent – published material is available to non-participating States, as well as industry, academic and research institutions. Export control regimes regularly conduct outreach sessions.

They help countries give effect to their obligations and commitments under non-proliferation treaties, such as the Chemical Weapons Convention, and UN Security Council resolutions. They act as a beacon to those in the international community who are not yet members but who adhere to the control lists, and to countries that are striving to establish effective export controls.



We see export licensing as a vital means of ensuring that legitimate trade in chemicals, biological agents, and related equipment can proceed uninhibited. Careful regulation of these potentially sensitive exports helps to reduce the risk that companies may unwittingly export products for use in chemical and biological weapons programs, and therefore attract severe penalties under national law. This gives our companies greater confidence of trade in products that have the potential to be used in the production of chemical weapons.

Chair, I ask that the full version of this statement be made an official-series document of the 107th session of the Executive Council and published on Catalyst and the public website of the OPCW.

Thank you.